

## OLDER ADULT SYSTEM OF CARE Advanced Service Extender Training By Carol Sagusti, L.C.S.W., OASOC Program Head



Beginning in February and running through June, the LACDMH Older Adult System of Care Bureau (OASOC) facilitated a series of advanced trainings for its current group of Older Adult Service Extenders. The purpose was to provide an enhanced level of knowledge to Service Extenders regarding emerging and current best practices in providing support to older adults as part of the OASOC FCCS treatment team.

The trainings, which took place one Friday per month, were well attended with topics such as the “Affordable Care Act and Coordinated Care Initiative,” “Medical Issues and Aging,” “Substance Use and Older Adults,” “Caregiving and Mental Health,” “JFS - Care Transitions Intervention” and an overview of GENESIS’s Care Transitions pilot. Our presenters included experts such as Amber Cutler, J.D., National Senior Citizen Law Center; Donna Benton, Ph.D., Pacific Clinics; Jose Salazar, Ph.D., Tarzana Treatment Centers; and Susan Fila, M.S.W., Jewish Family Services, as well as OASOC’s Theion Perkins, R.N., Program Head of GENESIS-FACTS, Haydeh Fakhrabadi, Psy.D., and Toi Bell, Senior MH Counselor R.N., GENESIS-FACTS.

Each presentation received an enthusiastic response from the Service Extenders who reported that the trainings broadened their awareness of issues facing older adults as well as how to better assist them. Comments made included “(the series) broadened our knowledge to understand

resources so we can assist our seniors” as well as “every training I felt I had a client that fit the topic...I learned how to be the squeaky wheel.”

A celebration luncheon was held on June 20, 2014, the last date of the training series. Martin Jones, L.C.S.W., OASOC District Chief, presented certificates of completions to the trainees, and acknowledged their dedication in serving our older adults as Service Extenders. Should you know of an older adult who would like to volunteer and support recovery for other older adults, please contact Carol Sagusti, LCSW, Program Head, for additional information.